Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Sends Message to Zambian President

FL1908125588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, delivered a message from our commander in chief to Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

Risquet, who is also secretary of the PCC Central Committee, is visiting Lusaka to attend the 10th UNIP [United National Independence Party] Conference of Zambia.

The Cuban delegation which is headed by Risquet is also composed of Julian Alvarez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, and Rolando Kindelan, [words indistinct] of the General Department of Foreign Relations.

Technicians Train Port Personnel in Angola

FL1808153988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The Cuban group that works in the field of transportation in the People's Republic of Angola is basically concentrated in the port of Luanda, the capital of the country.

Ships from all over the world arrive daily at this bay, and the situation is such that it requires strong operational support. Specifically, the job of the Cubans here is to repair and provide maintenance for hoists, tractors, and other equipment and to evaluate ship operations in the port zone.

The group of 17 Cubans who work in the port of Luanda includes technicians, qualified workers, and advisers who also give classes to Angolan personnel either in their own workshops or in schools. The objective is to train Angolan technicians and workers in the repair of motorized equipment and to evaluate adminstrative personnel and the management of the port.

[Being speaker recording] We have taken an initiative here through which Angolans and Cubans work in direct cooperation. In other words, those of us who are mechanics or technicians work with Angolan personnel. We aid them in such a way that they learn from our experience. So, when we have to leave, we will leave a good number of workers here capable of continuing our sacrifice. [end recording]

Ten Angolan technicians and workers, including port crane operators, enrolled in the courses this year. Six other workers also enrolled in the courses; they will carry out administrative work in the port of Luanda. The Cuban cooperation group for transportation also maintains advisers in the central organization, the national directorate of automotive transportation, and in the national directorate of the merchant marine and ports. It is hoped that this year the Angolan-Cuban cooperation in the field of transportation will also extend to the railroad branch.

Bahamas

Defense Force Arrests 2 for Smuggling Haitians

FL1808194788 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Report by Katy Longly]

[Excerpts] Two Bahamian men allegedly attempting to smuggle Haitians into the country were apprehended by officers of the Defense Force yesterday afternoon. The two men, said to be (?from) Freeport, and a total of 50 Haitians were intercepted by "HMBS Eleuthera" in the area of Black Point Exuma.

The arresting officer, Sub-Lieutenant Ralph Saunders, said the illegal immigrants were found during a regular routine search. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

The two men will be charged with smuggling and the 50 Haitians will be held in her majesty's prison until they are deported.

Dominican Republic

Interior Secretary Defends Police Patrols

FL1908163888 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0934 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] The interior and police secretary has justified the evening patrols of the national police.

Mr Juan Rafael Peralta Perez said that sensible citizens support the operations conducted in discotheques and drinking establishments. Peralta Perez said the principal critics of the raids are criminals affected by these police actions. He said the raids are conducted primarily in establishments where drugs and crimes are promoted.

Interior Secretary Peralta Perez said the police operations are an effort to guarantee peace of mind for citizens in view of the plague of criminals and drug traffickers.

Former Secretary Still in Prison Despite Pardon

FL1908170788 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0935 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Four days after being pardoned by President Joaquin Balaguer, Lic Rafael Flores Estrella, former administrative secretary of the Presidency [during the administration of President Salvador Jorge Blanco], remains behind bars due to assassination charges against him which have prevented his release.

Flores Estrella is accused of being the mastermind behind the death of a young girl, [name indistinct], and of attempting to kill her father, Lic Eugenio Diaz Perez.

President Balaguer pardoned Flores Estrella on Monday, 15 August. The former administrative secretary was sentenced to 1 year in prison and fined 16 million pesos for embezzling from the state. Flores Estrella's attorneys are attempting to obtain his release.

Merchants Group Criticizes Price Increases

FL2008122788 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0937 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] The Association of Merchants [Asociacion de Comerciantes de los Mercados] has denounced cod and margarine price increases. Jose Diaz, spokesman for the merchants, said that prices for products that are included in the daily diet continue to rise despite controls on the dollar premium. The trade leader demanded that industry and commerce investigate the reason for the price increases for margarine and cod.

There is no reason for a price increase because the Central Bank regulates currency for imports, said Diaz.

Complaints about the newest increases for basic goods have even been (?expressed) by Industry and Commerce Secretary Juan Valerio Sanchez. There have been further complaints to the effect that the dollar premium is under control and prices should thus go down and not up, as has continued to occur.

Wheat Workers Union Ends CASC Affiliation

FL1908175488 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0944 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The National Federation of Workers of the Wheat and Wheat Derivatives Industry has announced that it is no longer affiliated with the Autonomous Confederation of Trade Unions, CASC. Rafael Castillo, secretary general of the wheat workers union, said during a news conference that the CASC is a divisionist organization, which is why the wheat workers decided during their second congress that they would end their affiliation with the CASC. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Haiti

Reaction to 14 Aug Labadie 'Massacre' Continues

FL1908163188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Five days after the big massacre of young people from the MJL [Labadie Youth Movement] by a group of soldiers and armed civilians last Sunday as they celebrated the 2d anniversary of the MJL, the authorities that came to power on 18 June 1988 have yet to say one word about the matter. [passage omitted]

All people know is that a group made up of several civilian and military authorities, among them the area military commander and the magistrate, went 1 day after the massacre to Labadie, where the blood shed the day before had not yet completely dried into the ground. [passage omitted]

Since Sunday's massacre, many young people have begun fleeing Labadie, and the exodus is continuing, because everyone is very scared. Relatives of young people in Labadie are frantic. We interviewed one of these young people who have had to flee their home in Labadie.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] What is the situation like in the area, after the massacre?

[Speaker] After Sunday's massacre, all the young people have come here. [passage omitted]

We would like to ask the pertinent authorities to put an end to this business, just so we can go back home. [passage omitted]

Armand Louismond is an adult with two children. He was not even a member of the movement. He was just passing by on his way to get someone who was going to do some work for him. As he passed by on his horse, they made him get off and shot him and shot the horse [words indistinct]. You see? [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Did anyone in the area see these people come up, see exactly who did this?

[Speaker] The people left their vehicles along the road and they went through the bushes, over the hills. Some of them were masked, wore masks on their faces. They came by and started firing. Another man, Berson Etienne, had fled. He got to the road and almost made it home, but they shot him. [passage omitted] The same bullet that killed Donny, also hit Dos Poule, who had [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Have they already been buried?

[Speaker] Well, that same night they came to get Dos Poule, who is from (Tobilier), and they took him away. Berson... [changes thought] As for the people buried, I don't know about now, because, you know, (?all of us are here), and [words indistinct] the authorities that I see are involved (?might have) [words indistinct] just to get us to go back there. We have been here for the past 3 days. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] And how, in particular, are the parents in Labadie?

[Speaker] Well, everyone is very worried. Almost everyone has left. It is an area that is almost empty. Everyone is very worried because we left and they don't know where we are.

[Reporter] So, many young people have left the area?

[Speaker] Bunches! [passage omitted] [end recording]

Youth Movement Press Release

FL1908160088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday the Labadie Youth Movement issued the first press release since the Sunday massacre. The MJL says the massacre was carried out by soldiers and tontons macoutes. MJL says these soldiers and macoutes were divided into two groups: one group was in charge of shooting at the young people's gathering, and the other group stood guard.

Besides the four youths killed, MJL informs national and international public opinion that five members of the MJL's Executive Committee have been missing since Sunday.

Also, the MJL says it is indignant, because among the members of the committee that went to Labadie last 15 August to take official note of what happened were several citizens who had dipped their hands into the blood of the young the day before, on Sunday, 14 August. Furthermore, according to MJL, it was this very committee that ordered the destruction of the home economics center.

The MJL also thinks this new drama is part of the current government's plan to destroy all the people's organizations currently operating in Haiti.

The MJL concludes its note by respectfully saluting the victims, and it invites all its members and all friends of the movement to remain in solidarity with one another.

Solidarity of Groups, PUCH

FL1908132888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Kodem [Komite Defans Entere Miragoane, Committee for the Defense of Miragoane's Interests] feels the Labadie massacre shows that the authorities want to plunge the country into even greater darkness and ignorance, increase fear, and sabotage the popular movements. However, Kodem assures the people of Labadie that like a reed, those struggling for real change will bend but never break. The struggle for jobs, education, health, and justice will continue, whether anyone likes it or not.

The public transportation drivers union for its part says it is shocked to see what is happening in Haiti. [passage omitted] Instead of the authorities satisfying the people's demands, there is much brutal repression going on in Haiti. [passage omitted] Murderers have so taken over the country that even children are being sold and quartered.

The metropolitan area public transportation drivers union is in solidarity with all repressed organizations, and sends special condolences to the relatives of the young people in Labadie who have lost their children and relatives to the bullets of the macoute assassins in civilian clothing and the macoute assassins in khaki.

The union asks all organizations to get together and mobilize to form a single bloc so they can rise up against all these acts of repression and establish a true democracy in Haiti.

The Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], in a cassette recording it has sent to the press, says it is indignant. [passage omitted] PUCH asks the Haitian authorities to explain the massacre and also to arrest all the perpetrators.

PUCH believes these measures are a warning to all true democrats and to everyone struggling for real change in Haiti. It also thinks this should serve as a warning that anyone who desires change needs to join in solidarity so that it will be possible to prevent a similar massacre in some other part of the country.

Farmers Denounce Burning of Housing Project

FL1708212688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from the fourth and fifth sections of the Commune of Verrettes say all the houses belonging to the project called PDRV [not further identified] have been attacked and vandalized. A note from the small peasant farmers who live in the fourth and fifth sections of the Commune of Verrettes—in (Nan Poste), Dauphine, (Chero), Coudol, (Cazo), Gabriel, (Nan Mairie), (Vieux Caille) (?and) Palmiste—says they were very shocked to awaken at around midnight on the night of Thursday, 11 August, to find that the criminal macoutes in Verrettes, along with many people who came from the hills, had gotten together to burn down all the houses in the project called PDRV in Morne Verrettes, which is in the fifth communal section. The peasant farmers say lots of things were destroyed, both inside and outside the houses.

According to their note, they have lost approximately $30,000 worth of material that was in the warehouse and in the houses.

They declare that in a case like this, they are obliged to cry out to all conscientious patriots and all other small peasant farmers like themselves throughout Haiti for help and solidarity, because the men who just did this have promised to come back and burn down still more houses.

This is a note from the fourth and fifth sections of the Commune of Verrettes reporting the trashing of the houses of the project called PDRV in Morne Verrettes.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Japan To Finance Stage of Fish Market Project

FL1708192888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Kingstown, St Vincent, Aug 17, CANA—St Vincent and the Grenadines and Japan have signed notes for a grant of ec7.29 million dollars (one ec dollar; 37 cents U.S.) to finance the second phase of construction of a new fish market in the capital Kingstown.

The notes were signed here by Japan's ambassador to the region, Mitsuo Iijima, who is based in Trinidad and Tobago, and Allan Cruickshank, acting prime minister.

The money will be used to finance the construction and equipping of the fish market building which will contain 30 vendor stalls, lockers, handling and bargaining area, processing area, as well as chill room, cold storage blast freezers, ice machine, ice storage, together with offices for the staff of the fish market and the country's fisheries division.

A grant of ec6.07 million dollars for the first phase of the project was extended in November last year. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Announces 'National Economic Emergency'

FL2008134388 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Trinidadian Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson has announced a gasoline price rise and other reforms to turn his country's economy around. Mr Robinson says Trinidad and Tobago is in a state of national economic emergency. He also told the nation in a television broadcast that his government would dismiss an unspecified number of public employees and sell off some of its 65 state-run corporations.

Measures Outlined

FL2008163688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 20, CANA—After bracing for big cuts in jobs and salaries, Trinidad and Tobago's public service escaped the direct axe in an economic package unveiled by the administration on Friday.

Instead, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson reduced the wages bill by a mere tt 70 million dollars (one tt dollar; 23.5 U.S. cents) for the rest of the year. The total was estimated at two billion dollars for 1988.

Although Robinson did not indicate what form the cuts will take, he did mention that reductions over the next three years under government's medium term proposals would be done through voluntary retirement, voluntary severance schemes, and contracting out of in-house services for the medium term.

Government envisages a nine per cent contraction in governments' salaries bill by 1991.

The only place where Robinson said would definitely receive cuts this year are salaries paid from the capital bill—in state enterprise companies.

Announcing that one billion dollars is being knocked off the 2.1 billion dollar 1988 capital programme, Robinson said that Industry Minister Senator Ken Gordan had been mandated by cabinet to instruct state enterprise chairmen to adjust salaries and allowances of non-unionised management staff downwards.

Other changes on the capital bill will involve cuts in allocations to public utilities, state enterprises, local government bodies, statutory bodies, and Tobago's House of Assembly (THA).

The capital bill's virtual slicing in half will also be introduced through postponement of projects not yet awarded.

Opposition Assails Package

FL2008175088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 20, CANA—Opposition leader Patrick Manning says Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson should resign if he is unable to manage the troubled petroleum-based economy.

Manning labelled an economic austerity package presented on Friday by Robinson to a special sitting of parliament as the administration's third "non-budget." He accused the prime minister of failing to concretise an effective programme to remedy the country's economic problems.

"Mr. Robinson has now been in office for twenty months. One expects, therefore, that he would either perform or resign if he finds that the job is too big for him," Manning said in a statement.

Manning and his opposition Peoples National Movement (PNM) had reserved extensive comment on the first part of the package—a 15.3 percent devaluation—earlier this week expressing a wish to wait for the whole package.

"It is abundantly clear that the sole purpose of the devaluation is to put the government in funds pending the implementation of a full scale IMF (International Monetary Fund) programme despite the ministers assurances to the contrary," Manning charged. Manning said Robinson's statement constituted a "further example of

the minister's continuing incompetence in the management of the country's economic affairs, thereby worsening the crisis of confidence clearly evident after the presentation of the unfinished 1988 budget."

Manning said some of the issues Robinson failed to address included declining economic growth, escalating unemployment, foreign exchange depletion, double digit inflation, and an absence of business confidence. Instead, the measures introduced this week would, according to Manning, lead to the third steep rise in the gasoline price for this year, higher utility rates, job losses in the public sector, and more retrenchment in the private sector, and high prices particularly for food and medicines.

Manning said these would "all serve to impoverish further a nation which has already been devastated by the misconceived economic and fiscal measures of an inept and uncaring NAR [National Alliance for Reconstruction] government."

"In characteristic fashion, the minister attempted to avoid his responsibilities to manage the economy by seeking to throw the blame on the previous government," Manning said.

The PNM holds a public meeting on Wednesday to discuss government's measures.

NAR Member Suspended for 'Unauthorized' Remarks

FL1808155088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2304 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 17, CANA—A member of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction's (NAR) bodyguard team who accused the party of ingratitude to its supporters has been suspended, the NAR said Wednesday.

According to a press release from NAR headquarters, Sonny Singh, a member of its unofficial bodyguard "A-Team", was suspended from the group following a statement he circulated on behalf of the group. Singh had criticised the NAR's treatment of those who had helped get the party into power in 1986.

A statement from party spokesman Lennox Raphael, said that Singh was suspended at a special meeting of the A-Team Tuesday.

"Members of the national A-Team felt that the said release, apart from being unauthorised, misrepresented the spirit and commitment of the national A-Team and did not in any way reflect the positive direction of this action-oriented body," the statement said.

At a higher level, complaints by one section of the former four party grouping led to two cabinet reshuffles in November 1987 and February 1988 dropping NAR deputy political leader, Basdeo Panday, from government and party activity.

Panday and his supporters discuss the possibility of setting up their own political party in October.

Senate Elections in 7 States Declared Valid

FL1908155688 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0443 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Aug (NOTIMEX)—During this morning's session, the Mexican Electoral College declared legal and valid the results of the 6 July elections in seven states. This afternoon the elections in the states of Queretaro, Nayarit, Tabasco, Aguascalientes, Michoacan, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon were unanimously declared valid.

Electoral College President Oscar Ramirez Mijares announced the approval of Michoacan Senators Roberto Robles Garnica and Cristobal Arias Solis of the Cardenist Front for 6- and 3-year terms, respectively.

Nevertheless, Senator-Elect Arias Solis challenged the validity of the elections in Nayarit. Nayarit Senators Emilio M. Gonzalez, coordinator of the PRI majority in the Electoral College, and Julian Gazcon Mercado spoke in favor of the document declaring the elections in their state valid.

The Electoral College will discuss the cases of the states of Sonora, Oaxaca, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, and Durango in tomorrow's session, which begins at 1100.

Certification of Deputy Elections Begins

12 Results Confirmed

PA1908165688 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Order returned to the Chamber of Deputies this morning and the Electoral College commissions resumed their work. Only the spectators had to be warned for trying to disrupt order during the session.

This afternoon at the legislature, the Electoral College began to certify the deputy elections. So far, 12 citizens are now federal deputies, including Guillermo Jimenez Morales, leader of the PRI majority. The Electoral College began work at 1130. For almost 4 hours, deputies-elect from all political parties spoke and made ideological statements.

Jose Luis Lamadrid from the PRI said we are experiencing a period of democratic expansion and renewal in the legislative branch and that one has to face it with passion, but also with responsibility. Jesus Ortega from the (?PDF) [not further identified] agreed with this and urged the future legislators to act with responsibility because the legitimacy of the government depends on it.

Octavio Moreno Toscano from the [National Democratic] Front said what happened last month was due not only to ignorance of the regulations, but also due to loopholes in the regulations. Oscar Mauro Ramirez, from the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, and Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, from the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], agreed that a new period of dialogue is beginning in the Chamber of Deputies.

Rafael Aguilar Talamantes, from the Cardenist Front [Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction] agreed that it is everyone's responsibility to certify the elections in such a way that it will deserve the credibility of the people.

Yesterday's debate to certify the deputies would have begun quickly, but Vicente Fuentes Diaz, from the PRI, took the podium to attack the opposition and 3 hours were spent on attacks and counterattacks. The first certification came at 1530, for Victor Manuel Sarabia of the PRI, who is now deputy for the 21st district of the Federal District.

Other Federal deputies are Oscar Chacon y Miguez from the PRI for the 19th district of Jalisco; Hilda Anderson from the PRI for the 13th district of the Federal District; (Sofia Valencia Mondis) from the PRI for the 17th district of Jalisco; Benito Juarez Camacho from the PRI for the 2d district of Sinaloa; Maria Esther Valiente from the PRI for the 9th district of Guanajuato; (Esther Courtenieu) from the PRI for the 14th district of the Federal District; Jose Arturo Campo from the PAN [National Action Party] for the 16th District of the Federal District; Alfonso Alcocer Velasquez from the PPS and the Front for the 8th district of Mexico State; Marta Patricia Rivera Perez from the PRI for the 15th district of Mexico State; and Jorge del Rincon Bernal from the PAN for the 3d district of Sinaloa.

Four cases are still to be certified, and at the rate the work is progressing, all indications are that the Electoral College will soon complete its work.

4 More Results Settled

PA2108141388 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies' Electoral College resumed its work today at 1500 after a recess of more than 18 hours. The discussion to analyze the results in 20 electoral districts began in the afternoon. Four of these cases have been settled so far. Three of these cases were resolved in favor of PRI candidates and one in favor of the PAN candidate.

The PRI candidates who were declared winners are Fructuoso Lopez Cardenas, representing the 5th district in San Luis Potosi; Jesus Angel Lopez, representing the 4th district in Mexico City; and Juan Jose Osorio Palacios, representing the 34th district in Mexico City. PAN Candidate Rosa Fayan Cervera, representing the first district in Yucatan, was also confirmed.

Cardenas Says Election Annulment Not Desirable

PA1908220688 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] National Democratic Front [FDN] leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas held a rally at the Mexican National Autonomous University [UNAM] at noon today, and in the afternoon he spoke to oil workers at the tower of the parastatal entity.

This morning Cardenas said it would not be desirable to have the presidential elections annulled. He was speaking at the central courtyard of the university.

[Begin Cardenas recording] It is not desirable to have an interim government and to have to call for special elections. That is why we are demanding that these elections be cleaned up. [end recording]

Cardenas was referring to the demand for information on 25,000 polling centers. He was accompanied by Heberto Castillo, Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, and leaders of the University Student Council, who arrived at UNAM at noon today. The rally was held under a persistent drizzle.

In the afternoon, Cardenas met with a group of oil workers outside the Pemex installations. Cardenas said we must take care of the oil reserves for the present as well as the future of the country. He said he would not recognize a government that achieved power through election fraud. Both rallies declared a minute of silence for the FDN members who were murdered.

Salinas Comments on Modernizing Public Sector

PA2008200588 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Report by Daniel Flores Meneses on speech by President-Elect Carlos Salinas de [illegible]ari on 19 August; place not given—passages within c[illegible]tion marks recorded]

[Text] Today Carlos Salinas de Gortari said the modernization of the public sector is necessary in order to establish a more coherent relationship between the government, the economy, and the people, and to provide more opportunities for the public and private sectors.

[Salinas] "In no way does this mean the government has given up the decisionmaking powers conferred on it by the Constitution."

Rather, he said, it means establishing clear rules for the distribution of responsibilities that preserve and maintain the sense of purpose of the Mexican state and its goal of achieving social justice. The winning candidate of the last election said this at the swearing-in ceremony of the Public Sector Modernization Commission. This commission will help draft the government's work plan for the next 6-year period.

[Salinas] "Our task today should be the careful examination of the public sector's regulatory framework. We must make it simple, clear, and long lasting. We must avoid excessive regulation so as to end inefficiency. We must promote reforms."

Salinas de Gortari said these reforms will affect the regulatory framework governing relations between the public sector and society and will eliminate obstacles in the public sector's many activities, as well as provide government employees with a decent standard of living.

[Salinas] "Let us think about the best ways to strengthen the mixed economy and identify the areas that need to be strengthened to encourage the various social sectors."

Salinas de Gortari stated that it is necessary to find mechanisms to stimulate productive investment by the private sector and to determine the most adequate means to achieve this goal.

President Meets OPEC Secretary General Subroto

PA1908005488 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] This morning Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid met with OPEC Secretary General Ali Subroto.

Subroto said OPEC will try to make Iran and Iraq agree to lower their crude oil production by 2.3 million barrels daily, which would help stabilize international oil prices. He told the media that De la Madrid reiterated to him Mexico's support for OPEC.

De la Madrid also met with Programing and Budget Secretary Pedro Aspe and General Prosecutor Sergio Garcia Ramirez and received PRI's National Executive Committee.

PRC Official Visits, Discusses Foreign Debt

PA1708002688 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Aug 88 p 10-A

[Text] Upon arriving in Mexico from Beijing, Li Beihai, secretary general of the CPC's International Liaison Department, said that the PRC agrees with the Cartagena consensus' policy advocating a new international economic order and the responsible participation of creditor and debtor countries in resolving the problem of the Latin American foreign debt, which exceeds $450 billion.

He said that "a solution to the serious problem of the foreign debt must be based on the economies of the countries involved. In order to pay the debt, these countries must grow, and this growth will only be possible if they reactivate their economies."

Li Beihai said that "creditor and debtor countries need to participate in negotiations now more than ever. Mexico has begun such a process by means of debt-for-equity swaps and other mechanisms it has created. It is no longer possible to condemn debtor countries to alienation, hunger, and neglect."

Li Beihai said that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroyka" is a very positive factor for the development of the socialist world. He said that the PRC has opened to the rest of the world to a considerable extent and holds cordial relations with 136 countries. It also holds trade relations with over 170 countries and over 250 political parties, including Mexico's PRI.

He pointed out that "the PRC's opening to the rest of the world has been a benefit to our country's one billion inhabitants. We are trying to promote greater development to satisfy the demands of this immense population."

Government Releases Jan-Jun 1988 Fiscal Report

PA1908031788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Aug 88 pp 1, 14

[Article by J. Antonio Zuniga M.]

[Text] The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat [SHCP] has reported that 7 of every 10 pesos spent by the federal government during the 1st half of this year went to pay interest on its domestic and foreign debt.

The SHCP's half-year report on the period ending 30 June 1988 said the federal government spent 55.8 trillion pesos during the 6 months, of which interest amounted to 39.5 trillion pesos.

The report submitted to the Chamber of Deputies said the government's deficit for the same period amounted to approximately 22.8 trillion pesos, caused by the interest on the public debt, which absorbed and surpassed all savings obtained from the implementation of austerity measures, discipline, and adjustment of public finances.

Without considering the interest payment, the effort to balance the public finances resulted in a primary economic surplus of 19.8 trillion pesos. However, this was not enough to compensate for the payment of 39.5 trillion pesos in interest, which resulted in an economic cash deficit of 19.7 [billion] pesos.

The lack of resources to compensate for the difference between government income and expenses, caused by the debt interest payment, paradoxically called for another loan of 19.7 trillion pesos—of which 96.9 percent (19.1 trillion pesos) was obtained from domestic loans and 3.1 percent (600 billion pesos) from bilateral loans and from international organizations, and nothing from commercial banks.

Of the interest payments made during the 1st half of 1988, 59 percent (23.3 trillion pesos) was on domestic debt and the rest (16.2 trillion pesos) was paid abroad.

Because of the almost complete lack of foreign currency income to finance the public finances deficit, the total domestic debt rose to 92.2 trillion pesos, of which 88.3 trillion pesos corresponded to the federal government's domestic debt and 3.9 trillion pesos to the parastatal sector.

The foreign debt will decrease by $1.7499 billion from the balance in March 1988 because of a real payment of $470.9 million and a $1.279-billion decrease in the amount of the debt because of exchange adjustments caused by European and Japanese currency fluctuations. The foreign public debt on 30 June 1988 was $79.5311 billion.

The SHCP report said budgeted federal government income was 34.4 trillion pesos and net expenses were 55.8 trillion pesos.

The results of the 1st half of the year demonstrate the effort made in the management of programmable expenses, excluding the servicing of the foreign debt. The report added that the programmable expenses were 13.4 trillion pesos in the 1st 6 months of the year, which is an amount equivalent to one-third of the interest payments.

In its component parts, regular expenditures, including salaries and those expenditures related to management, dropped 12.4 percent in real terms. Capital expenditures, which include investments, dropped 40.8 percent, and transfers fell 22.9 percent.

"Nonprogrammable" expenditures, which involve payments to service the public debt, rose 8.1 percent in terms of interest payments, which constitutes an actual decrease of 11.6 percent in the participation of federal agencies and a 9.2-percent drop in fiscal debts [adeudos fiscales], known as "ADEFAS" [fiscal obligations from prior accounting periods].

Pemex ended the 1st half of 1988 with a 1.6-trillion-peso surplus. The regulated parastatal sector, excluding Pemex, had a 1-trillion-peso surplus, and the unregulated parastatal sector had an overall 500-trillion-peso deficit.

As for the general outlook and guidelines that will set the pace in handling public finances during the 2d half of 1988, the SHCP report notes that adjustment of the nominal budgets will continue, as will the strict implementation of the deficit/surplus agreements of the parastatal sector, the financial rehabilitation process in some public agencies, and the divestment of companies that are not strategic or have a priority status.

Pemex Announces Higher Crude Oil Prices

PA1908222088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Pemex has announced higher prices for its crude oil sales to the American continent effective September. This price increase is due to a technical export formula adjustment.

The parastatal corporation also reported that it has started to export high-quality diesel fuel to a large U.S. customer.

The export formula adjustment will result in a 10-cent price increase for Isthmian-type oil and 30 cents for Maya-type oil.

Pemex also said the export of 30 million liters of high-quality diesel fuel to the United States is part of the announced policy of selling more processed products and less crude oil.

Government Building Fire 'Politically Motivated'

PA2008200988 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Today the police reported that the municipal offices in Tocumbo, Michoacan State, 210 km west of Mexico City, were set on fire in the early morning on Thursday. There were no casualties.

The police, who have yet to determine a motive for the incident, stated that the fire, which completely destroyed the building, was deliberately set. Saul Pineda, the local PRI leader, said the incident was politically motivated.

On Sunday, the municipal offices in Apatzingan, also in Michoacan, were also destroyed by fire during a political meeting attended by alleged supporters of the National Democratic Front.

Costa Rica

Minister Denies Contra Aid Delivery Report

PA2108164188 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Today Costa Rican Information Minister Guido Fernandez said that it is not true that President Oscar Arias' administration has authorized the use of Costa Rican territory to deliver humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Fernandez thereby denied reports coming from Honduras citing President Jose Azcona Hoyo as saying that Costa Rica and Honduras had authorized their territories to be used as a conduit for the delivery of military aid to the so-called contras. Fernandez said that while this may be true in the case of Honduras, it does not hold true for Costa Rica.

Fernandez added that it is one thing to deliver food, clothing, and medicine to the contras for humanitarian reasons, but another thing altogether to allow supplies to be delivered through our territory.

President Arias has often said that the humanitarian aid does not violate the letter and spirit of Esquipulas II; he made clear, however, that this does not mean that Costa Rica will allow its territory to be used for the delivery of such aid.

Not an inch of our territory has been used nor will be used to carry out an aggression against a regional government, Fernandez asserted. Fernandez added that this would not only be a violation of the peace agreements, but it would be an action that would go against Costa Rica's firm position of neutrality with regard to conflicts in fraternal countries.

Fernandez said that the government has received information on the presence of 1,500 armed men made desperate by their lack of food, medicine, and clothing near the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border. He said that these men may be tempted to cross the border in search of supplies if they do not receive them soon, adding that there is concern that this may increase tensions near the border.

Fernandez described the refugee problem in Costa Rica as a big one. Over 150,000 Nicaraguan refugees have entered Costa Rican territory over the past 5 years. The Costa Rican Government is also concerned that Nicaragua has made military [as heard] aid to the contras contingent upon signing a permanent cease-fire agreement. As a result, the rebels are not receiving the needed food, medicine, and clothing.

Contras Deny Involvement in 13 Aug Clash

PA2008184488 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Aug 88 p 10

[Text] Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS) sources have denied that "contras" were involved in the clash with Civil Police forces on Saturday. On the contrary, they stated the clash was staged by contra dissidents who engage in vandalism.

An official Public Security Ministry report will be issued after Hernan Garron, head of the ministry, receives the official report he has requested.

Garron ordered Commissioner Juan Felix Barrantes, director of the Civil Police, to go to Remolinito Grande, 2 km from the San Juan River, with a detachment of 150 troops to search the area to find the groups responsible for the clash.

It has been reported that Commissioner Barrantes concluded the search the day before yesterday but for various reasons could not return to San Jose at that time. He returned yesterday and visited Garron at his home, where he gave a detailed description of the clash, including reports from policemen who participated in it and from area residents.

Regarding the two as yet unidentified people detained during the fray, the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) in San Carlos was informed that they had not been placed in its custody until yesterday afternoon. Barrantes explained that from the time of their detention they have been in the custody of the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS).

The two individuals were captured during the clash at 1300 on Saturday between a 40-man Civil Police patrol and former guerrillas in the Remolinito Grande area near the Nicaraguan border. One rebel, whose nom de guerre was "Chaparro," was killed in the clash. Reports indicate his remains were sent to the police morgue.

National security and OIJ authorities have not denied or dismissed the possibility of ties between this group and another group which in May staged various assaults and misdeeds in the northern part of the country.

Reports in May indicated that a group presumed to be comprised of former Nicaraguan guerrillas was apparently responsible for attacks on San Isidro de Upala and Santa Rosa de Pocosol.

On these two occasions, and others in which they rustled cattle and stole food, the presumed rebels wore masks and used large-caliber weapons. During the attack on San Isidro de Pocosol [name as heard] they stole 150,000 colones worth of jewelry, clothes, and cash.

Part of the current investigation is to establish whether there is one group or two interrelated groups.

Reports indicate that while investigations are underway the Civil Police will continue patrolling the area and reconnoitering the entire border.

It has been reported that despite unfavorable weather during the past few days, the investigation will continue. Troops from the Northern, Los Chiles, and Atlantico commands are patrolling the area.

El Salvador

Rey Prendes Assembly Followers on 'Strike'

PA1908131388 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Aug 88 pp 2, 25

[Text] The parliamentary strike declared by the followers of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes in the Legislative Assembly will hamper the approval of an agreement for a large donation.

Yesterday Rey Prendes reported his decision to adopt a stance of "absolute passivity" in the Legislative Assembly. The decision is one of the pressure tactics to be used by a faction of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) that supports Rey Prendes' presidential candidacy rather than the candidacy of Fidel Chavez Mena.

Rey Prendes was asked if the "absolute passivity" will only involve matters connected to the government's activities. He replied that it will not. The passive stance—the parliamentary strike—will be for all of the National Legislative Assembly's activities. If it hurts the government, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], or any development program, that is their problem, Rey Prendes said. What we want is that they [not further identified] see that we are a real force and must be respected, he remarked.

With this passive stance, the PDC deputies will prevent today's approval of a favorable report to ratify an agreement for an AID donation. The donation is for $125 million, the equivalent of 625 million colones. According to ARENA Deputy Gloria Salguero, the Assembly had been working on the approval of this donation in an effort to keep those funds from "falling into the pockets of top PDC leaders instead of the people. The money was not earmarked for the PDC leaders."

She explained that since ratification of the agreement by the Legislative Assembly requires 40 votes, due to the parliamentary strike by the PDC deputies it will not be approved. The agreement will have to wait 6 more months before it can be debated again by the Assembly, she said.

This is the second parliamentary strike at the Assembly since the current Constitution was enacted. The previous one took place when ARENA, PCN [National Conciliation Party], and PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party] deputies and independent Deputy Rene Fortin Magana protested the "green steamroller," the 33 PDC deputies who controlled the Assembly totally and did not consider the opposition's views.

"The PDC's attitude is different now," Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso explained. "With their internal disputes, the PDC deputies adopted a stance harmful to the nation's interests. The good thing about this situation is that the people can judge which politicians could not care less about the country, and only care about their own party and themselves at the expense of the suffering of the people," he noted.

Meanwhile, Rey Prendes said he had expected criticism. "What we want to do is to show all sectors that the PDC has clout and legitimacy," he concluded.

Church Supports Arias on Government-Rebel Talks

PA2208011388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1805 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Salvadoran Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez stated that this country's church regards as "highly positive" the efforts made by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to promote a dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrilla forces.

After presiding over religious services at the Metropolitan Cathedral this morning, the prelate stated that "anything that contributes to peace is valuable; anything that opens paths that were closed is important. We will wait for further information to assess the future of this initiative."

It was reported from Costa Rica this week that Arias is negotiating a new round of talks between FMLN-FDR leaders and the Salvadoran Government.

Arias, who has offered Costa Rica as the venue for these talks, met with FDR President Guillermo Ungo and is arranging talks with the FMLN leaders.

The Salvadoran guerrillas have expressed their satisfaction and willingness to participate in a new round of talks.

However, the Salvadoran Government has shown its reticence, stating that the talks must conform with the new peace proposal being worked out by the government together with all the political parties.

Rosa Chavez, who replaced Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas at Sunday's mass, renewed his call to all national sectors, particularly the right wing, asking them to join with the church to reach a national consensus to end the nation's armed conflict.

For over a month the Salvadoran church—which favors a negotiated political solution to the civil war that began 8 years ago and has left 60,000 people dead—has been promoting the so-called national debate, which purports to bring together all the peace initiatives from all national sectors.

More than 62 Salvadoran social organizations have announced their direct participation. However, rightist organizations, especially business groups, have refused to take part on the grounds that the debate favors the FMLN guerrilla forces.

The prelate recalled that the national debate is designed to include all national sectors and that all groups "may join this activity at any time."

Regarding the more than 700-page document that will serve as the basis for the debate, the bishop said the document uses "serious, calm language, without slogans or insults."

Rosa Chavez said that "although the document reflects the views of a part of society," it represents the views of the majority, stressing the need to join this initiative to find a political solution to the armed conflict.

Colombia's Londono Visits, Decorates Duarte

PA2008235088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Last night, in an unprecedented ceremony, President Napoleon Duarte was decorated on his sickbed with the highest award of the Colombian Government. It was presented by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono.

Diplomatic sources reported that the president received the Colombian foreign minister for a few minutes. This was Londono's first official visit to the country.

The sources added that just as Londono was about to present the award to President Duarte's wife, the president announced that he would like to receive the award in person. The award, the Colombian Government's highest honor—the National Order of the Great Cross of San Carlos in its highest degree, the Great Collar—was presented to Duarte in a simple ceremony.

Present at the tribute, in addition to the Colombian foreign minister, were President Duarte's wife and his daughter Guadalupe, who wore sterilized clothing to enter the president's room.

After the ceremony, Londono said that President Duarte got out of bed and talked with the foreign minister about his life, his difficulties, the problem with the FMLN guerrillas, the earthquake that devastated San Salvador, the kidnapping of his daughter, and his illness.

Signs Joint Communique

PA1908205988 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Summary] On 18 August the foreign ministers of Colombia and El Salvador, Julio Cesar Londono and Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, respectively, signed a joint communique supporting the Esquipulas II peace plan. The document also includes a commitment by Colombia to strengthen its technical, scientific, and commercial cooperation with El Salvador.

Court Acquits Officer Linked to Romero Killing

PA1908190088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A judge has ordered the release of former Captain Alvaro Sanabria, who is implicated in the assassination of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, because of contradictory statements by a key witness. Court sources have explained, however, that the Constitutional Court will now have to decide whether or not to accept the acquittal of the soldier.

The decision issued by Justice Romeo Aurora acquitting and ordering the release of the former captain was made, according to the document, because Amado Antonio Garay Reyes—the alleged driver of the person who assassinated Msgr Romero—cannot be considered a reliable witness.

The judgement presented to the Constitutional Court notes that this witness has made statements that contradict testimony he gave at the 4th Criminal Court 7 years after the crime was committed. For this reason, the judge, based on articles 497 and 498 of the Penal Code and Article 53 of the Constitutional Procedures Law has ruled that there is no merit for arresting the military man, who has been tried in absentia.

However, court officials have explained that this document issued by Judge Aurora is only a report on his ruling, which according to the law can be either revoked or confirmed by the Constitutional Court. For this reason, this decision is not being viewed as a final ruling. [passage omitted]

FMLN on Enforcing Transportation Stoppages

PA2008033888 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN in El Salvador on 19 August]

[Text] The FMLN advises bus owners and the general public of the following:

1. Guerrilla units and urban commands have been instructed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the transportation stoppage and to stage acts of sabotage against those people who do not heed our provisions.

2. To prevent the consequences of a sabotage, it suffices to obey the strike provisions.

3. The owners of the special-route buses of San Salvador did not heed the transportation stoppage called by the FMLN.

4. The acts of sabotage will persist unless the bus owners of the special routes issue a public statement vowing to fulfill our upcoming provisions on the transportation stoppage. We reiterate that the transportation stoppages and sabotage are legal instruments of the people's struggle supported by political and military power.

El Salvador, 19 Aug 1988

Guatemala

Union Calls for Strike Over Economic Policy

PA2108193488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Guatemala's foremost labor union, the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP), called for a general strike to begin tomorrow, Monday, in response to the government's refusal to change its economic policy.

The UASP, which comprises leading labor unions, peasant groups, and popular and student organizations, announced that it had decided on the general strike because the government, which it described as "repressive," has not responded "to our demands."

This paralysis of state and private sector activities will come after a 14-day period of progressively larger strikes carried out by more than 75,000 of the 250,000 state employees.

Government spokeswoman Claudia Arenas said that "a total strike will have negative consequences for the Guatemalan people's economy, which is why the government has called for a serious dialogue to resolve the problem." [passage omitted]

The UASP is opposed to government controls on staple product prices, raising fuel prices, increasing transportation fares, and the new exchange rate of 2.70 quetzals to the U.S. dollar, measures imposed at the end of June as part of the state's "economic reorganization," according to the government. "Government and business groups that support these unpopular policies are to be held responsible for the consequences our struggle may unleash," the UASP warned.

The labor unions are also opposed to the 10 centavo (3.70 U.S. cents) reduction of gasoline and diesel prices and the 15 centavo (5.55 U.S. cents) per hour salary bonus, which they described as a "mockery."

The UASP denounced the "threats and intimidation" used against public servants who have supported the strikes.

The unions are demanding that the government control staple product prices, respect human rights, and respect the freedom to join unions, in accordance with an agreement signed in March. They are also demanding the "withdrawal" of the antiriot forces that occupied state institutions on Thursday and Friday in order "to thwart the workers' strikes."

Security forces occupied the Finance Ministry, post offices, immigration offices, and the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (INDECA).

Government Creates Civil Protection System

PA1908215688 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Aug 88 p 9

[Text] The government has issued a resolution creating the Civil Protection System [Sistema de Proteccion Civil—SIPROCI], which will come directly under the Guatemalan Presidency.

The resolution, which went into effect on Friday, establishes that the system will be coordinated by the Defense and Government Ministries, with representatives of the Army through the military commands, the civil defense volunteer committees, the national police, the Treasury Police, Immigration Office, Administrative Control Office of the Presidency, and the Presidential Security Department.

The Guatemalan president will approve the guidelines for the operation of the SIPROCI. These will be submitted for the president's consideration by the defense or government ministers.

The purpose of the SIPROCI is to safeguard and consolidate individual rights, the protection of human life, and safety and security in all areas.

It will also establish a system to coordinate all the activities which fall under the organizations and institutions in charge of the maintenance of public order and security.

Honduras

Azcona on U.S. Contra Aid, Nicaraguan Suit

PA1908170488 Paris AFP in Spanish 0454 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Aug (AFP)—President Jose Azcona has said that the Honduran Government will permit U.S. aid for the Nicaraguan contras "to pass through Honduras because no one can be opposed to this type of action."

The president stated this today after receiving the credentials of new Nicaraguan Ambassador Francisco Jose Lacayo, who replaces Danilo Abud Vivas.

According to Azcona, the new Nicaraguan ambassador said he hopes there will be a flow of communications between Managua and Tegucigalpa.

Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez said this week that if Nicaragua does not withdraw the suit that it filed at the International Court of Justice in The Hague accusing Honduras of permitting the contras to use its territory, the Esquipulas II peace process "will collapse."

Referring to this, Azcona said "the agreements do not depend on the withdrawl of the suit," because there are other factors, such as domestic problems, that hinder the peace process. However, he did admit that Nicaragua's position "represents an obstacle to the relations among the Central American nations."

Today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that his government is willing to negotiate with Honduras as long as the Azcona government accepts the installation of a multinational force on the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

Azcona To Travel to U.S. for Checkup 22 Aug

PA2008184688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1558 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—It was officially reported today that Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo will travel to Houston on Monday [22 August] for a medical checkup.

Honduran presidential adviser Carlos Falck said Azcona's health "is satisfactory, but he must undergo a periodic routine checkup to keep his health in excellent condition."

Azcona will be out of Honduras for approximately 1 week during which time he will be replaced by Presidential Designate Alfredo Fortin Inestroza.

Nothing was said about whether the Honduran president will use his visit to the United States to meet with officials of the Reagan administration.

Nicaragua

Protest Note to U.S. on 16 Aug Contra Attack

PA2008042588 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Aug 88 p 5

[Protest note from Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz—date not given]

[Text] Mr Secretary of State: I am writing to you with regard to the recent acts of terrorism perpetrated by the mercenaries in the service of your government. At 2100 hours on 16 August of this year, an unknown number of mercenaries attacked the settlement of Monterrey, located 40 km north of Jinotega Department. As a result of this criminal attack in which M-79 and RPG-7 mortars were used, nine people, including three children, were killed. They were: Arlen Gonzalez Machado, Marina del Carmen Gonzalez Machado, and the youngest of the children killed, Jose Luis Martinez Chavarria, who was 3 months old. Also, 10 people, including children ranging in age from 2 to 10 years, were wounded. This heinous attack also inflicted heavy damage on the community, in which 10 homes were burned.

This is the kind of terrorist action that is incited by the United States' discussing and approving in the U.S. Congress actions that violate the Esquipulas II and Sapoa agreements. The above-mentioned incident, in which the principal victims are the civilian population and children, is evidence that the so-called "humanitarian aid," when conceived outside of the framework of the agreements of the five Central American presidents, only incites war, destruction, and killings.

The Nicaraguan Government strongly protests this bloody policy of state terrorism which is directed at closing the avenues of negotiation and imposing force and irrationality above the rules of international law. The Nicaraguan Government demands that the U.S. Government end the systematic violations of the ceasefire, the attacks against civilian targets, and that it heed without delay the 27 June 1986 ruling of the International Court of Justice.

Victor Hugo Tinoco, Acting Foreign Minister

Intelligence Chief on Contra Aid, Agreements

PA2008031388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Report on interview with EPS Military Intelligence Chief Major Ricardo Wheelock by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Major Ricardo Wheelock, EPS military intelligence chief, has criticized Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who favors the delivery of aid to the mercenary forces regardless of its origin. Maj Wheelock said that as author of his peace plan, President Arias knows that any aid sent to the mercenaries that ignores the Nicaraguan Government is illegal and violates the Esquipulas agreements.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [passage omitted] According to UPI and AFP dispatches, the Honduran and Costa Rican Governments have authorized the U.S. Government to use their territory to send humanitarian aid to the contras. For example, an AFP dispatch datelined Tegucigalpa said that the Honduran Government will permit the U.S.-approved aid for the contras to pass through Honduras, since no one can be against this kind of aid. In addition, Costa Rica said that this type of aid is not illegal, and that Costa Rica, therefore, cannot

oppose it. It has even been claimed that this aid is covered under the agreements. Since you have participated in all the meetings and talks concerning the agreements, could you give us your opinion on this? Would it be permissible within the framework of the Esquipulas and Sapoa agreements to permit the delivery of humanitarian aid to rebel forces?

[Wheelock] Well, amid this avalanche of propaganda and lies we are very surprised to learn that President Azcona can tell as big a lie as the one you just mentioned. We are even more surprised to learn that President Arias, whose initiative led to the Guatemala agreements, could have said such a thing. [passage omitted]

As I have said, the Esquipulas II agreement certainly permits that aid; however, the permission for this aid is clearly outlined in the Esquipulas document, which says that the aid is permissible when the irregular forces—in other words the FDN and the rebel forces or Salvadoran revolutionary forces—accept the Esquipulas agreements. In accepting the Esquipulas agreements, these groups will lay down their weapons, will hold talks with the governments, and will join civilian and political processes in Central American countries.

Although the FDN has said that it accepts the Esquipulas agreements, the Esquipulas agreements state that it cannot continue receiving aid from any power, but they are still receiving it. According to the Esquipulas agreement, they cannot receive humanitarian aid or any kind of mililtary aid as long as they remain armed. That is the main problem, which they are trying to ignore. The Esquipulas agreements certainly permit humanitarian aid, but for those forces that have chosen to join a political process and have layed down their weapons, which is not the case with the FDN.

What is even worse—and there is another trap here—Honduras' sheltering these forces in its territory is no longer an Esquipulas or Sapoa problem but a problem of international law. Honduras violates international law by sheltering terrorist forces that attack another country and are the instrument of a foreign power, the United States. So this is not a problem dealing with Esquipulas or Sapoa but one of international law. Hondurans have not yet understood that permitting the delivery of any kind of aid—let us term it humanitarian, although it is not—to forces that have taken up arms against a government is equivalent to giving military aid, regardless of the fact that this aid may be in the form of boots, food, medicines, or lollipops. This aid serves to reinforce a military force so it can attack a government. This violates international law and principles of coexistence. The UN Charter stipulates punishment against this kind of violation. Nicaragua could at any time invoke Article 51 of the charter to make clear to the international community that we are under attack and that an aggression against Nicaragua is being prepared in another country. These are very serious matters the Honduran Government either is not aware of or prefers to ignore. All this means that delivery of aid to a force that has taken up arms against a government is unacceptable. This is dealt with not only in the Esquipulas agreements but by international law, which is even more binding. Under the Sapoa agreement, Nicaragua agreed to deliver this humanitarian aid as a revolutionary government concession provided this aid was delivered through the International Red Cross and an OAS social organization. But the counterrevolutionary forces refused to receive this aid through these channels. They did not even accept this concession by the Nicaraguan Government and chose to receive this aid, which is illegal now, in neighboring territories.

We think it incredible for President Oscar Arias, who sponsored the Esquipulas idea, to say that delivering the humanitarian aid to these forces on Costa Rican territory is legal. He knows—better than anybody else because the idea was his—that this delivery is illegal according to Esquipulas and international law for the reasons I have clearly explained.

[Reporter] Do you mean that as long as a counterrevolutionary force keeps fighting a constitutional government, such as that of Nicaragua, no aid from other governments or organizations can be regarded as humanitarian?

[Wheelock] Yes, and not only that. The Esquipulas agreements specifically say that such irregular or insurgent forces cannot even obtain aid from radio stations or newspapers. They cannot receive money or anything that portrays them as belligerent, either politically, economically, or socially, according to Esquipulas. [end recording]

6 Contra Organizations 'May' Form New Movement

PA2108170488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] San Jose, 21 Aug (AFP)—It has been reported in San Jose that today six anti-Sandinist contra organizations headed by Alfonso Robelo, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and Alfredo Cesar warned that they may form a new movement if the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate keeps the "democratic and moderate sectors" out of its hierarchy.

This warning was stated in a document signed in San Jose this weekend by the following contra organizations: The Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS), the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), the Social Democratic and Social Christian parties in exile, Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians, and Creole groups organization], and a dissident sector of the Conservative Party.

A spokesman for the dissident groups said that today the document will be sent to the rebel Directorate headed by Colonel Enrique Bermudez, which is scheduled to hold a meeting in Miami tomorrow.

RN Director on Support From L.A. Countries

PA1908183788 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Aug 88 p 6

[Text] New Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Director Wilfredo Montalvan said he intends to "Latin Americanize" the Nicaraguan problem, and he urged his fellow countrymen to set aside ideological, personal, or sectarian disputes and tackle the real problem: the liberation of Nicaragua.

Montalvan said he has scheduled a tour through several South American countries to explain to their presidents and leaders how the Sandinists have violated all their pledges since coming to power in 1979.

He said: "The Marxist-Leninist regime has systematically violated the Nicaraguan people's human rights and represents a veritable threat to the stability of Latin American democracies."

The leader asked: "The Latin American people and governments helped us in the struggle against Somoza. Why are they waiting now to help us in the struggle against another dictatorship that is even worse than Somoza's?"

Likewise, he said the Central American people and governments must wake up. "Marxist-Leninist regimes are expansionist by nature and have their own subtle infiltration system, without necessarily resorting to invasions or enormous shows of force. We must act now; tomorrow may be too late."

Montalvan also said the Contadora Group, and even the United States, speaks on behalf of the Nicaraguan people, and he warned that "from now on, any person or government that speaks on behalf of the Nicaraguan people must first consult with us, because we are the only ones who have the right to forge our own destiny."

The RN director stated his displeasure about the scant aid approved by the U.S. Senate. He asserted that "we will not resolve Nicaragua's problem with humanitarian aid. Our people, our fighters, are struggling for their country's liberation; they are not fighting to get food, medicine, and clothes--which is what the humanitarian aid basically represents."

Montalvan also revealed that the RN sent a letter to the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica in recognition of the expressions of solidarity issued by their foreign ministers during the 1 August meeting in Guatemala City.

The RN's letter states: "You are well aware that we have insistently said that our struggle is being waged because of the lack of democracy and freedoms in our country." "We reassert to Your Excellency that democracy for us implies, as stated by the foreign ministers in their joint communique, political pluralism, freedom to organize, freedom of the press, an impartial legal system that guarantees an honest trial, an apolitical armed forces in the countries that have one, an honest and clear electoral process, and respect for human rights and individual liberties," the RN emphasizes in its letter to the Central American presidents.

'Sandinist Mobs' 'Attack' V. Chamorro's House

[Editorial Report] PA2008130088 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish on August 18 publishes a 300-word report on pages 1 and 8 describing an alleged "attack" on LA PRENSA director and Nicaraguan Resistance member Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's house.

LA PRENSA claims that "Sandinist mobs" attacked Chamorro's house in southeastern Managua on the night of 17 August. According to the newspaper, "the first reports indicated that some of the house's windows, as well as the windshield of her Toyota, were broken, but no one was hurt." The newspaper adds that this is the result of constant harassment against Chamorro by the Sandinist media, and it says that Chamorro had told the paper that "rocks had been showering on her house almost continuously for the past several weeks, when special documentaries prepared by Sandinist television had been constantly aired on government television, inciting an attack against her." Furthermore, LA PRENSA says Chamorro has received hostile and obscene phone calls during the past few weeks, which she considered as a forewarning of a personal attack.

Meanwhile, Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 19 August 1988 publishes a 600-word report on pages 1 and 5 that says that "last night Violeta Barrios de Chamorro assured foreign correspondents that 'no windows have been broken' in her house, thus contradicting the information published yesterday in LA PRENSA, the newspaper she directs, which reported that 'windows were broken' when 'Sandinist mobs' allegedly threw stones at her house." BARRICADA quotes Chamorro as saying: "My house was not damaged." It adds that she did not hear rocks hitting her house Wednesday night, although she did say that her car window was cracked "by an alleged rock, which she said she did not have, nor did she have any other evidence." BARRICADA then says that, according to Chamorro, "there was a small mistake" in the article published by LA PRENSA.

In addition, BARRICADA reports that Chamorro claimed to have a family meeting and did not allow the police to investigate the case. BARRICADA adds that area residents told the police they had neither heard nor seen anything unusual in the area Wednesday night. BARRICADA concludes by saying that the police will not continue the investigation, as Chamorro did not press charges and no one in the neighborhood saw or heard anything.

28 Aug Opposition Demonstration Authorized

PA2008191988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Report by Francisco de Jesus Rodriguez]

[Text] The Sandinist Police of the Sixth Region granted permission to the leaders of the Democratic Conservative Party to hold a demonstration on 28 August from 0900 to 1300. This was announced by Porfirio Molina Palacios, leader of the party in Jinotega Department.

In order to prevent disorder or misunderstandings, Molina Palacios said, we will be at the north and south entrances of the city with a good number of policemen. The permit issued by Subcommander Sergio Gomez and by Lieutenant Luis Meses Moreno, the Jinotega Sandinist Police chief, states that there will be freedom but not libertinism. One of the clauses of the permit clearly states that the demonstration must conform to the country's laws. The participants can carry signs calling for freedom of political prisoners and for the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreement. Molina Palacios said he was happy and optimistic to receive this permit.

Opposition Prepares for 4 Sep Managua Rally

PA2208034888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2125 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) announced that it will continue preparing for an opposition rally in Managua on 4 September.

Acting CDN President Duilio Baltodano, a Social Christian, called on the Nicaraguan people to mobilize and "fill" Managua's Revolution Plaza as a sign of opposition to the government.

Baltodano, who did not say whether they have received the required permit from the Sandinist authorities, warned that "this is no time to stay at home, but to fill the plaza across from the ruins of the cathedral."

He said the work of the CDN leadership will henceforth be to "vanquish fear and convince the fearful that victory will be ours."

Baltodano was one of the speakers at the national headquarters of the Nicaraguan Workers Federation (CTN), where a rally was held this afternoon to demand the release of more than 40 national leaders and militants of the civilian opposition jailed on 10 July 1988. [passage omitted]

Ortega Praises Gulf War Parties on Cease-fire

Letter to Iraq

PA2008161088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Aug 88

["Text" of letter from President Daniel Ortega to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn—dated 19 August]

[Text] Dear President:

On behalf of the FSLN National Directorate, the revolutionary government, and myself, we want to express to you, your people, and the Ba'ath Party our solidarity and support for the momentous decision to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, as of 20 August, to end the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, an 8-year war that has caused huge losses in terms of both human lives and material destruction.

We view with satisfaction the political will of both sides, as members of the Nonaligned Movement, to resolve the conflict through peaceful dialogue and negotiations, as our movement's principles establish. This decision is not only a victory of peace over warmongering, but it is also a victory over the militaristic attitude of the current U.S. Administration, which will be forced, if it really respects the sovereign will of Iran and Iraq, to put an end to its presence in the Persian Gulf, withdrawing its warships which only threaten to expand the conflict to other states.

Reiterating our friendship and solidarity, I fraternally greet you.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Letter to Iran

PA2008161388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Aug 88

["Text" of letter from President Daniel Ortega to Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i—dated on 19 August]

[Text] We have read with great attention and satisfaction the news of the decision by your government and the Iraqi Government to suspend military actions as of 20 August and begin the process of dialogue and negotiations to end such a costly war.

The FSLN, the revolutionary government, and the Nicaraguan people hail and support this momentous decision because it is a great step toward the peace that we desire so much these days. It is also a victory over the warmongering attitude of the current U.S. Administration, which will be forced to respect the sovereign decision of the two governments and withdraw its military presence from the waters of the Persian Gulf, a presence that threatens the future stability of that important region.

Nicaragua, as an active member of the Nonaligned Movement, views with satisfaction the political application of one of our fundamental principles: the principle that controversies between member states should be settled through political negotiations.

Reiterating our friendship and solidarity, I fraternally greet you.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Panama

Hunger Strike Begins for Release of Labor Leader

PA2008014188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2335 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Three IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] officials, Cesar Lorenzo, Ladislao Carvalho, and Gregorio Campos, began a hunger strike at 0800 today that will not conclude until Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the IRHE workers' labor union, is released. According to information supplied by union members to Circuito RPC Television, all the IRHE workers who were arrested have been released except Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the workers' labor union. [passage omitted]

Workers To Spread Strike

PA2008134388 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1248 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Following the release of 39 Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification workers—with the exception of union secretary general Isaac Rodriguez—employees from the state organization have declared a hunger strike until their leader is released. [passage omitted]

"Noticentro 1270" [name of newscast] has learned from Isaac Rodriguez' father that the labor leader's wife was unable to deliver food to Rodriguez because she was told at the penitentiary that the prisoner refused to eat. Therefore, his IRHE co-workers have assumed that Rodriguez is on a hunger strike. [passage omitted]

Cesar Espino, the IRHE union's secretary of defense, was interviewed by our colleague Daniel Rivera.

[Begin recording] [Rivera] We have observed that you are on a hunger strike here at the Don Bosco church. Why?

[Espino] We are on strike after consulting with our co-workers nationwide, and we have decided to remain on strike until our secretary general is released. His arrest is illegal; he has not been given guarantees for a legal defense. Therefore, we demand the release of our colleague. That is why five co-workers, representing various areas such as the Panama City metropolitan area, the San Francisco electrical plant, Chitre, the central provinces, and others, have joined this collective hunger strike: to demand that the authorities immediately release our co-worker. The length of this hunger strike will depend on how long it takes the government to make a decision about this problem.

This hunger strike will be spreading throughout the country, and in various churches of the Republic. That is to say, co-workers from all our branch offices throughout the nation will be joining the strike. If necessary, we will go to the United Nations, but this hunger strike will spread throughout the country. [end recording]

Government Appoints New IRHE Director

PA2108222788 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Aug 88 p A-1

[Text] The executive branch has named Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo as the new general director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE).

Lt Col Garibaldo, G-1 of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff, will be replacing Roberto A. Barraza.

Garibaldo has occupied various important positions in the FDP during his military career. He has served as director of the National Department of Investigations (DENI) and was also the first commander of Fort Jose Domingo Espinar, previously known as Fort Gulick.

Amphictyonic Committee Reports to Solis Palma

PA2008151688 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Members of the preparatory committee for the 2d Amphictyonic Congress in Panama met with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to present the conclusions and recommendations reached at their meeting. The event's success, the committee explained, resulted primarily from the massive participation of various ideological groups from Latin America and Panama.

The committee suggested the creation of a permanent secretariat in Panama with a view to achieving Latin America's full integration, and reported that among the most important documents approved at the meeting were those condemning the economic blockade against Panama, the threat of military intervention, the psychological war, and evil plans against ranking Panamanian Government officials.

Cabrera on Soviet Envoy's Visit, PCC Funds

PA1908123188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera has commented on a recent visit to our country by Soviet envoy Leonid Romanov.

[Begin recording] [Cabrera] I am surprised at the attention given to this normal event in international relations. It was an exchange of views regarding the UN General Assembly. The event has no special meaning or importance.

[Reporter] General Noriega has said that funds from the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] are being used to help the Nicaraguan contras. What specific evidence does the Foreign Ministry have on this?

[Cabrera] We believe that the U.S. authorities, the U.S. Congress, should conduct an investigation concerning the Iran-contra scandal. We understand—and this is our opinion—that there is a high probability PCC funds may have been diverted for purposes other than the PCC activities agreed upon by the two countries, and that some funds may have been diverted through the U.S. Embassy for that purpose.

[Reporter] Representatives from the minister in charge of the Presidency did not participate in the latest PCC meeting. What will happen at the next meeting to be held in the United States?

[Cabrera] Panama's absence from the meeting—the Republic of Panama's legitimate representatives were not present—was due to impediments presented by the U.S. authorities, specifically by the U.S. Embassy, which did not obtain visas for the Panamanian officials who were to accompany the Panamanian members of the PCC Board of Directors. [end recording]

Bank Official Says System Unharmed by Sanctions

PA2008150788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2120 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 19 Aug (DPA)—The Panama Banking Association, comprised of 115 private banks, reports that the political situation in Panama has not harmed the banking system because it only deals with foreign markets.

Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the Panama Banking Association, told DPA that almost all of the private banks in Panama are operating despite the 15-month old crisis, adding that the four banks that left did so because of the [lack of] Latin American countries' foreign debt payments.

Lasso Valdes said the banking center has continued operating because Panama offers the best opportunity for the development of Latin American markets with its currency being the dollar, its tax system, bank secrecy, its corporate laws, and because taxes are not imposed on profits.

"The private banks in Panama do not do business locally but with foreign Latin American markets," Lasso Valdes said. He added that "we do not depend on the political situation in Panama but on the behavior of foreign markets."

Lasso Valdes stressed that although the economic measures implemented by the United States against Panama have not destabilized the banking system, they have affected the Panama National Bank.

Nevertheless, what he said could affect the system would be the elimination of the dollar as the country's currency.

Lasso Valdes commented that the Panamanian Government holds periodic meetings with the Banking Association because it is aware of the sector's role in Panama's economy.

Radio Station Owner Appeals Closure Order

PA2008162688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 19 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Fabrega, owner of the two Panamanian radio stations whose frequencies were canceled on Wednesday by the government based on charges of encouraging subversion, today requested a "reconsideration" of the measure.

Fabrega told ACAN-EFE that he presented the Government and Justice Ministry with an appeal and 31 tapes that, he said, prove he has not subverted public order.

Radio stations Stereo Suave and Radio Noticias, owned by Fabrega—a member of ousted President Eric Delvalle's Republican Party—on Monday broadcast live the funeral of opposition leader Arnulfo Arias Madrid, three-time president of Panama.

Fabrega, a former director of the National Culture Institute, said during a news conference on Thursday at the Panamanian Human Rights Commission office that the stations were silenced because they had covered the funeral, which developed into a large antigovernment demonstration.

According to Fabrega, the Government and Justice Ministry promised to give him an answer by next week.

In the resolution canceling the frequencies, the ministry pointed out it "had been observing with great concern the systematic manner in which Radio Suave incited subversion."

Committee Repudiates Latest Closure of Media

PA1908222688 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2205 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] The Permanent Committee for Freedom of Expression [Comite Permanente por la Libertad de Expresion] has released a communique dated today in which it repudiates the latest closure of communications media.

In its communique, the committee blames the national government for the regrettable consequences that may stem from such actions.

'Authentic Liberal Party' Recognized as Party

PA1908154988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Aug 88 p 1

[Article by Juan Carlos Duque M.]

[Text] "We are now a political party," one of the leaders of the Authentic Liberal Party [Partido Liberal Autentico] told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA after officially learning that the Electoral Tribunal has recognized the party.

Jaime Ortega, vice president of the Authentic Liberal Party, said that the Electoral Tribunal has notified the political organization's leadership that it has fulfilled the requirements to become a political party and that it should hold its political convention.

According to the Electoral Tribunal, the Authentic Liberal Party obtained 36,674 signatures. Of that figure, 6,583 were annulled, leaving 22,253 valid ones. [figures as published]

In order to become a political party, a political organization needs 19,260 signatures.

This is good news for Authentic Liberal Party members because in recent years they had been active as an opposition force but without being able to participate in discussions as a party.

"We will go to the opposition," Ortega commented to this newspaper.

The president of the Authentic Liberal Party is veteran politician Dr Arnulfo Escalona, Dr Joaquin Franco is another vice president, and Julio Harris is secretary general.

Ortega said the members are already working on organizing the party, and he stressed with optimism that they plan to hold the party's convention in Chitre, Herrera Province, in the first 2 weeks of September.

"We will continue the opposition line we have been following."

"The Liberals once again have a headquarters."

"The political game is changing," Ortega said.

Briefs

Drug Accord With Costa Rica

The Panamanian and Costa Rican Governments have signed a cooperation agreement by which their police forces will provide mutual support in stemming the flow of drugs across their common borders. The agreement, which was signed by Rodolfo Jimenez Montero, national drug enforcement director of Costa Rica's Attorney General's Office, and Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, director of Panama's National Department of Investigations, demonstrates the two governments' interest in pursuing an all-out war against drug trafficking. [Text] [*PA2108202988 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 21 Aug 88*]

New Ambassador to FRG

Panamanian Ambassador Maximiliano E. Jimenez recently presented his credentials to FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker. [Summary] [*PA2208014788 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Aug 88 p A-16*]

Argentina

Economy Minister Predicts Lower Inflation

PY2208011088 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Aug 88 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Yesterday Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, unshaken by a landslide of price violations reports, stood by his forecast of single digit inflation by September.

Sourrouille, who promised a huge drop in prices when unveiling the Primavera plan in early August, said last night that inflation would be "single digit in September and in the coming months." He added that "next week people will see that prices are calming down."

The minister recognized price "abuses" by some producers and said that "We call for responsible attitudes in order to remedy this."

Yesterday government officials downplayed the price violations reports but announced tougher measures and "lists of suggested prices" as from next week.

Yesterday two business groups warned of violations in the voluntary price agreement between the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), the Argentine Chamber of Commerce (CAC) and the government.

The Business Mercantile Activities Coordinating Board (CAME) attributed "price stampede" to the increase in public utility prices and in the "huge increases" by large producers.

The Federal Capital Commerce Federation (FEDECAMARAS) complained of the price increases authorized between July 31 and August 12. "They represent another cushion" for the large concerns, it said.

A senior UIA spokesman, Claudio Sebastiani, yesterday acknowledged that small- and medium-size businesses have been the hardest hit since the government's economic package was unveiled in early August.

But yesterday Domestic Trade Under Secretary Carlos Bonvecchi downplayed the reports of price violations. "I don't think it's as bad as some say it is," he said. Government sources said no plans have been made for a price freeze.

Still, officials tried to reassure consumers yesterday, announcing that the under secretariat's 500 inspectors would increase surveillance of shops as of next week.

CGT Dissatisfied With Government Wage Offer

PY2008150588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Aug (NA)—The CGT has walked out of the Wage Council in disagreement with the government's offer to increase the minimum adjustable salary to 1,100 australes as of 1 September 1988. The CGT has demanded 1,700 australes as of 1 August.

The CGT's withdrawal was reported by Daniel Funes de Rioja, spokesman of the council's business sector, who explained that the minimum salary "could not be changed, so it remains at 924 australes."

General Elections Scheduled for May 1989

PY1908174688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] A few minutes ago upon arriving at Bahia Blanca, Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia confirmed that the general elections scheduled for next year will be held in May, and the transfer of power will be held in December in accordance with the national Constitution.

Senators, Military Oppose SAS-Aerolineas Deal

PY1908224688 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Aug 88 p 9

[By Sergio Crivelli]

[Excerpts] Congressional approval of an agreement between SAS [Scandinavian Airlines System] and Aerolineas Argentinas on the partial privatization of Aerolineas Argentinas is meeting serious opposition from the Peronist senators bloc.

All members of this bloc have signed a communique stating that the negotiations violated Law No 20,705—which bans the use of private capital in state corporations—and a principle of the public law on competitive bids. The Peronist senators also expressed their "complete disagreement" with the negotiations between the national government and SAS. [passage omitted]

Besides the questions that can be put to [Public Enterprise Directors President] Losoviz, the Senate commission has to consider the opinions of the three branches of the Armed Forces, who were asked to send their opinions on the deal.

The Army answered by referring the senators to the Defense Ministry where General Miguel Wenceslao Abbate signed a communique on 3 August "that could be used as an opinion on the matter."

The Navy answered that it did not have official knowledge of the negotiations, that it was not consulted on any of its aspects, but that it believed "any agreement must ensure that the state can make full use of all its resources to preserve its interests in national defense."

The Air Force sent a more detailed note. On 3 August [Air Force Commander] Brigadier Ernerto Crespo issued a note stating that "the General Staff shares the concern over the possible risk of a foreign government owning part of the company and having decisionmaking power in the operation of our national commercial airline."

Regarding Argentina's potential commercial partners. the Air Force points out that "as everyone knows, we have important conflicts of interest with those two countries (Norway and Denmark), because one of them is a signatory and the other an adherent to the Antarctic Treaty."

The relevant part of the document, however, is the section that refers to the national defense. Regarding this subject, the note signed by Brigadier Crespo says: "It is the opinion of the General Staff that Aerolineas Argentinas, as a national enterprise, should naturally be the backbone of the air transport in a situation of national defense without obstructions from third countries."

The note adds that "aviation has an important role in national defense and should work harmoniously with other parts to satisfy the highest national interests.... We want to make it clear that no one in the country can seriously oppose the need to privatize the majority of public enterprises, including Aerolineas Argentinas, but we must be careful of how the privatization takes place, and with whom."

The document concludes by emphasizing a bit of background on the matter: "We should not forget that the Argentine Government, through Decree 1216/82, canceled the authorization of SAS to operate in Argentina after the countries that own the enterprise applied economic sanctions against Argentina during the Malvinas conflict." [passage omitted]

UCR To Send Observers to Chilean Plebiscite

PY1908150988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0340 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (TELAM)—Today Luis Caceres, UCR secretary general and a national deputy, promised Chilean Radical Party [PR] leader Ricardo Navarrete that a delegation of UCR leaders will be sent to observe the plebiscite that will decide Chile's institutional future in early October 1988.

During a news conference held with the Chilean PR leader, who said [words indistinct] that an opinion contrary to the continuation of General Augusto Pinochet as Chilean president will prevail in the plebiscite.

The no vote will win because Chileans are fed up with the past 15 years of suffering, including torture, killings, and humiliation, said Navarrete. He added that the opposition will monitor the balloting, thus safeguarding the plebiscite from any fraudulent actions.

On 30 August, the top authorities in the Chilean regime will nominate their candidate—it is taken for granted that it will be Pinochet—so that the citizenry can vote yes or no in the plebiscite, thus deciding whether this candidate will govern the country for the next 9 years.

Navarrete added that after the victory of the no vote, the opposition will ask for another plebiscite in order to ammend the Constitution promulgated by the current regime in 1980 so as to ensure a call for democratic, free, and open general elections. Nevertheless, Navarrete noted: If we are defeated honestly, we will respect the plebiscite's outcome, although we will continue to struggle.

CNEA Head on Nuclear Sub Reports, Plants

PY2008034088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2351 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Aug (TELAM)—Emma Perez Ferreira, chairman of the CNEA, has categorically denied that a nuclear submarine is being constructed in local shipyards. Emma Perez also asserted that the Embalse nuclear plant is operating fully, while the Atucha I plant, paralyzed due to problems in the cooling system, will resume activities in 20 days time.

Perez Ferreira made this statement during a news conference with members of the CNEA consultative board at the commission's headquarters at 8200 Libertador Avenue in Buenos Aires.

Regarding the statement by scientist and nuclear phycisist Jose Westerkamp that a nuclear submarine is being built at the Ministro Manuel Domecq Garcia shipyard, in Puerto Nueva, Perez Ferreira said that it is completely untrue.

The CNEA chairman said that if we do not have the necessary resources in our nuclear energy program to complete the Atucha II plant, we certainly would not be involved in projects that are not only useless, but condemnable.

We have no intentions, she explained, at least I personally do not, and you can ask the president (Raul Alfonsin), of producing atomic bombs and the same for the submarine that is being represented as a nuclear submarine. What would be interesting is a submarine propelled by nuclear energy.

Regarding the situation of the Atucha I, Embalse, and Atucha II nuclear plants, the CNEA chairman said that the first two are operating, although Atucha I is momentarily paralyzed for another 20 days due to a problem in the cooling system. The Embalse plant is operating fully, and a close check is being kept to prevent problems such as those that appeared in the pressure vessels of similar Canadian nuclear plants.

In this regard, she said that there are no leaks in any of the vessels because had there been, the plant would not be operating. She added that there is minimal leakage of heavy water, caused by a leak in one of the vapor generating tubes, but this by no means should cause unrest to the people.

Regarding the construction of Atucha II, she said that it is 60-percent complete. We are seeking to obtain partial financing, which we have already started to negotiate, to cover expenditures during the next 2 years. Currently, the authorities of the economic sector want to secure financing to cover the completion of the project, which means that there will be a change in the way we carry out negotiations.

Asked about what she termed a "campaign to discredit the CNEA," Perez Ferreira said that the publication of reports on nuclear activities, which are always negative, is very systematic. She added that: We should also like to talk about the good things we do.

Perez Ferreira concluded by saying that there are many antinuclear people; therefore, when I talk about the existence of such a campaign, it is probably nothing but the pressure exerted by these groups or commercial interests that could be seeking to paralyze our activities to keep countries from using new nuclear energy.

Deputy on Damage at Embalse Nuclear Plant

PY1908214688 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Aug 88 p 11

[Text] Yesterday Lower House fuel and energy Committee Secretary Normando Arcienaga (Peronist-Salta) asked the executive branch to report to Congress on the extent of technical damage that has been detected at the Embalse nuclear plant in Cordoba. The Salta legislator went on to question the sense of spending hundreds of millions of dollars to repair the most modern plant in Argentina, which ceased to generate electricity for a period of at least 23 months. The problems at Embalse were brought to light by an article which appeared in the BUENOS AIRES HERALD yesterday. The article pointed out that there were failures in the Embalse piping system and that the plant needed urgent repairs.

Brazil

President Sarney Supports Cuts in 1989 Budget

PY2008005088 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Aug 88 p 14

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday morning in a speech at the opening of the cabinet meeting, President Jose Sarney expressed total support for the general guidelines of the 1989 federal budget, which projects a 17.6-percent cut, and he asked the ministers to support the policy for containing the public defict. Those guidelines were proposed by Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega and Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu.

President Jose Sarney stressed that "this is the only option and it is very clear. We will work with the resources left for the federal government. We will contain monetary expansion and the issuing of government bonds to an absolute minimum."

Sarney noted that "the federal government will no longer have resources to transfer to states and municipalities, not even in an emergency."

Under the new constitution, the president emphasized, the federal government will only shoulder responsibilities for national security, formulation of economic policy, maintenance of both the judicial and legislative branches, and foreign policy. The states and municipalities will bear the burden of providing public services, tending to peoples' needs, and running basic education, health, and social well-being programs.

In his speech, the president observed that the loss of federal revenues under the terms of the new constitution will amount to 17.6 percent in 1989, increasing in subsequent years until that loss amounts to nearly 22 percent. With cuts in its expenditures, the central government intends to adjust the budget to the reduced revenues, to ensure compliance with the new constitution.

Sarney then affirmed: "I do not want, and I will not permit myself to be accused of having made unviable the model adopted by the Constituent Assembly. The poorest states will rigorously have to reformulate their own policies for allocating resources. This is the model of a new federation, a republican ideal; it is up to me to implement it."

The president also affirmed that to bring its action into line with a new economic policy, the central government will adopt a very austere fiscal and monetary policy. He pointed out that today the imbalance in public accounts is the main cause for the high inflationary indexes, but not the only cause.

Finally, Sarney said that he was sure society will give the government all the understanding and support necessary to make an energetic and realistic effort to reduce the public deficit, which is fundamental to sound public finances and inflation control.

Government, Creditors Reach Agreement on Debt

PY2008010488 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Aug 88 p 14

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday the Brazilian Government obtained the support of banks representing 95 percent of the debt that Brazil wants to renegotiate. The negotiations have been going on since October 1987. With this support Brazil surpasses the so called "critical mass," meaning the minimum percentage of support the IMF considers necessary for disbursement of the first fresh loans of $300 million to the country.

Yesterday in New York, William Rhodes, representative of the creditor banks committee, and Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega released a joint communique announcing the results of months of negotiations.

According to Sergio Amaral, Finance Ministry international affairs coordinator, the communique says that Brazil has very quickly negotiated its debt and that this demonstrates the confidence of the international financial community in the country's economic policies.

According to Amaral, the support of banks representing 95 percent of the debt will mean fresh loans to Brazil amounting to $4.95 billion or $5 billion (the total amount of the agreement is $5.2 billion). William Rhodes believes the resources will start being disbursed in October. The banks that express support for the agreement by 2 September will receive a commission of 0.125 of the LIBOR rate (London interbank rate on the European market.)

The IMF had considered the "critical mass" reached since 15 August. This was communicated by phone to Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega and Rhodes by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

Rhodes considered it better to delay the announcement and give more time to reluctant banks to support the deal. Camdessus, Rhodes, and Mailson da Nobrega made a deal not to announce the IMF decision until the reticent banks were convinced by the committee. In the end this happened. As a result more fresh loans will be made available to the country.

Government Preparing GATT Pharmaceutical Appeal

PY1908122988 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Aug 88 p 20

[Text] Brasilia—Brazil has again decided to resort to the GATT in view of the U.S. Government's decision to enforce sanctions on Brazilian products due to the conflict on pharmaceuticals. On 22 August, Brazilian representatives in Geneva will submit an appeal in which Brazil protests the U.S. decision. This appeal alleges that the U.S. decision violates GATT principles.

According to diplomatic sources, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry is also planning to resume commercial negotiations with the United States. But it will not immediately submit a proposal to achieve an understanding in this regard. Nevertheless, the Brazilian Government is already studying the possibility of adopting licenses for pharmaceutical products for a 10-year term. It is believed that a 10-year term is a reasonable period to master pharmaceutical technology.

Foreign Minister on Border With Uruguay

PY1908040088 Sao Paulo O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Aug 88 p 7

[Text] Brasilia—"This is an issue that will take 2 more centuries to resolve. It is an issue that is already a century old, but it is not going to be resolved at this time." This is what Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre said regarding the Uruguayan Government's intention to begin negotiations on the Uruguayan-Brazilian border that was established in 1851. According to Abreu Sodre, the issue was raised by the Uruguayans in 1934, when a geographer pointed out a mistake in the demarcation of the border. However, the Uruguayans have always received the same response from Brazil.

The note that has been submitted by the Uruguayans reportedly includes three points: The mistake in the border demarcation and the resultant dispute over the sovereignty of 22,000 hectares in Brazilian territory; the sovereignty of a Brazilian island in the Quarai River; and the excessive use of Quarai River waters by Brazilian rice farmers.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry is awaiting the reception of the Uruguayan note to see if there really is a need to review the issue.

Chile

PN President Removed; 'Crisis' Worsens

PY1908142488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 18 Aug (EFE)—Today a youth group that supports the Chilean military regime took over the headquarters of the center-right National Party (PN), thereby worsening the crisis created in that party with the removal of the party president, former Senator Patricio Phillips.

The group supporting Phillips, and the other group supporting German Riesco, PN's vice president who replaced Phillips, got into a fight at PN headquarters in downtown Santiago.

Yesterday the majority of the PN Political Committee removed PN President Patricio Phillips on charges of forming groups within the party opposed to the party policy of promoting a consensus candidate in the upcoming presidential plebiscite.

The crisis within this political organization, which inherited the tradition of the democratic right, began 2 months ago when, in a meeting with Phillips, President Augusto Pinochet criticized the PN for not supporting his regime.

A heated discussion occurred in the PN after that meeting among those who would support Pinochet if he became the candidate, those who reject him, and those who advocate the no vote.

Phillips held a news conference in the PN headquarters tonight. He said that he will not recognize his removal by the Political Committee and that he hopes that the PN Supreme Council, which will meet today, will confirm him as PN president.

Phillips reiterated that he was not supporting either the yes or no vote and that he supports the idea of a consensus candidate for the upcoming plebiscite.

Removal Ruled Illegal

PY2008135888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court of Honor of the National Party decided that the decision to remove Patricio Phillips, made by a PN Political Committee group, is illegal. Therefore, Phillips is still the PN president.

The court also decided that the call for a meeting on 27 August of the PN General Council, which is run by German Riesco, who proclaimed himself PN president a few days ago, is also illegal.

Another important decision made by the court is that German Riesco and 11 other leaders involved in removing Phillips have 5 days to make public retractions. If this does not happen, the court will meet again to decide further action. [passage omitted]

Survey Indicates No Vote Leads in Santiago

PY2008191988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1634 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 20 Aug (EFE)—According to a survey cited today by the newspaper LA EPOCA, 47.4 percent of Santiago residents will vote "no" if General Augusto Pinochet is the only candidate in the plebiscite, while 33 percent will vote "yes." [figures as received]

The survey, conducted by DIAGNOS, an independent firm of consultants, indicated that 6.3 percent of those surveyed did not answer, that 9.3 percent were undecided, and that 3.2 percent will turn in a blank ballot.

The no-vote is favored most by the lower income sectors in greater Santiago (53.7 percent), and by men (52.7 percent) more than by women (42.7 percent). [passage omitted]

The people surveyed were also asked: "What would be best for the country? 43.7 percent said the victory of the no vote, and 34.5 percent said the victory of the yes vote.

Yes Vote Favored

PY1908131588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] According to a poll conducted by the University of Chile, more people will support the yes vote than the no vote in the upcoming plebiscite.

LA SEGUNDA published details of the poll which was conducted among 20,000 people at the national level and from all social sectors. According to the poll, 37 percent will vote yes, 33 percent will vote no, and 30 percent are still undecided. The figures confirm the information obtained from other polls that about ⅓ of the electorate have not yet made a decision regarding their vote.

Unions Create 'Central Labor Union'

PY2108230288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 20 Aug (EFE)—At a meeting attended by 960 delegates, representing more than 300,000 workers affiliated with unions throughout the country, the Central Labor Union [Central Unica de Trabajadores] (CUT) was created today.

Sergio Barriga, president of the CUT Organizing Commission, said that "the objective of this organization is to promote the no vote in the upcoming presidential plebiscite," that is, to reject the single candidate to be nominated by the Armed Forces.

Barriga also defended strikes and nationwide stoppages as instruments to protect the workers' interests, which have been seriously affected during the nearly 15 years the military regime has been in power. He insisted that CUT will be "a pluralist and democratic" organization.

After the meeting was opened, the commissions that will analyze the declaration of principles, the struggle platform, and the statutes of the CUT were formed.

Although this labor organization will not be recognized under current legislation, Barriga said: "It is created by a mandate of the labor bases throughout Chile."

The meeting, which is being held in the coastal town of Punta de Tralca, 115 km west of Santiago, will end tomorrow with the election of the new organization's directorate.

Most likely, Manuel Bustos, a member of the Christian Democratic Party who currently heads the National Workers Command, will be elected CUT president. This past week, the Supreme Court condemned Bustos to a 541-day banishment in the city of Parral, in the country's southern region.

50,000 Demonstrate for Unity Against Regime

PY2008024088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0109 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 20 Aug (TELAM-ANSA)—This afternoon opposition youth leaders staged a massive demonstration that ended peacefully. The demonstration was a fervent call "for the unity of all Chileans to defeat General Augusto Pinochet's regime politically in the upcoming plebiscite and then force him to leave office through ever increasing mobilizations."

According to its organizers, the demonstration organized by the "Youth Command," which comprises the youth of 16 opposition parties, was attended by more than the expected 50,000 people.

Socialist leader Alejandro Goic said: "We are very happy that despite the difficulties in reaching the meeting place—a broad avenue behind the national stadium—many people, including slum dwellers and young people of various social levels, attended the meeting."

The political-artistic event, in which several music groups took part and many young leaders presented their statements, was authorized by the office of the chief of the zone under a state of emergency. Policemen did not approach the site of the meeting, but watched it from a distance.

MIR Members Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

PY1908234288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] members involved in the murder of former metropolitan intendant Carol Urzua and two of his bodyguards have been condemned to life imprisonment.

Today a court martial officially made this decision after revoking the death penalty that had been decreed by the Santiago military judge. The death penalty was revoked because the military court of appeals president, (Enrique Paylla), voted against it. Consequently, (Hugo Marcial Moya), Jorge Palma Donoso, and Carlos Araneda Miranda were sentenced to life imprisonment, which is the most serious imprisonment penalty.

Marta Sota and Susana Capriles, who are charged with complicity and abetment in the triple murder, were sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. Their sentences have already been served. Capriles had been on parole, but now she will no longer be considered on parole. Soto will be released in the next few hours.

This case will be submitted to the Supreme Court only if the military prosecutor who represents the relatives of Urzua and the Chilean Army does not agree with the court martial decision. He could then present a complaint or request that the proceedings be annulled. The death penalty is applied only if court members unanimously approve it.

Scientists Fear Arms Race Against Neighbors

PY1908033488 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Argentine nuclear phycisist Federico Westerkamp has said that Chilean scientists are afraid of the possibility that General Pinochet's regime might start an arms race against Argentina and Brazil.

The Chileans, Westerkamp said, are sure that if Argentina and Brazil have a nuclear submarine, Pinochet will immediately buy another one from South Africa.

My Chilean colleagues do not advocate this possibility, and they are very worried over the Chilean situation, the Argentine scientist said.

Westerkamp, member of humanitarian organizations and of the pacifist Movement for Life and Peace [Movimiento por la Vida y la Paz], has harshly criticized Argentine Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, who had denied the information given by the (?scientist).

Colombia

Government Views on Dialogue Proposals Outlined

PA2108151888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The national government has divided the various proposals made during the 29 July national dialogue into three categories. This newscast has learned that according to an official document, the proposals are categorized as being easy, somewhat difficult, and difficult to reach agreements. This document reveals how the Barco administration views the possibilities inherent in the various proposals and the terms under which the government will make its peace proposal.

According to the government, there are three possible signs symbolizing the results of the peace talks in Colombia. An asterik means green light—there is agreement; a hyphen means yellow light—one must wait and see because more discussion is needed; and an X means red light—danger, do not proceed, no agreement is possible.

In this traffic light for peace, there are clear objectives: the establishment of responsibilities and guarantees; the joint participation of the government and guerrilla groups; the creation of a follow-up commission; the promotion of regional dialogue; respect for previous agreements between the government and the guerrillas; and the need to find a political, non-military solution.

Regarding political issues, there is a green light for a plebiscite, the lifting of the state of emergency, constitutional reforms, an end to military trials for civilians, the

elimination of bipartisan systems, the election of attorneys general and governors, the limitation of military powers, and the restriction of legislative powers.

Regarding social issues, there is a green light for agrarian and labor reforms, an employment plan, and the allocation of funds for health centers.

Regarding economic issues, there is a green light for economic policy reforms and the restructuring of the foreign debt.

Regarding military issues, there is a green light for the trial of military men involved in crimes, guarantees for guerrillas involved in dialogues, and punishment for those responsible for torture and kidnappings.

There is a yellow light—meaning more discussion is required—on issues such as limiting the role of the Armed Forces to the defense of national sovereignty, making the police accountable to the Government Ministry, and releasing political prisoners.

There is a yellow light for subsidizing unemployment and adjusting salaries to the cost of living. There is a yellow light for a moratorium on the foreign debt, a decrease in interest rates, removing the current Armed Forces commander, and a 90-day truce.

There is a red light for drug traffickers, the nationalization of natural resources, the demilitarization of Indian and peasant regions, the suspension of all military operations against guerrillas, the appointment of a civil defense minister, and the repeal of an antiterrorist statute.

The document did not provide prospects for reforms seeking deep changes and a conversion to Christianity. Those who studied the document probably understand that in such matters, divine peace does not depend on the three colors of the traffic light. [sentence as heard]

High Court on Trying Guerrillas as Rebels

PA1908213988 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
13 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] From now on, guerrilla members that are caught with explosives and plans for staging an attack will not be tried in accordance with antiterrorist statutes.

This was decided by the High Court of Public Order, which determined that members of guerrilla organizations should be tried for rebellion and not for terrorist acts. Following a presentation by Magistrate Josue Ramirez, the legal body decided that it was logical to conclude that members of subversive groups are armed and use explosives. Magistrate Josue Ramirez added in his presentation that people involved in these types of crimes should be tried by ordinary justice.

The decision was related to the case of M-19 member Carlos Fernando Garcia, who was caught with 10 sticks of dynamite and a map of the National University of Colombia.

The public order tribunal stated that jurisprudence and doctrine have recognized the M-19 as an illegal rebel political organization, the sole purpose of which is to illegally overthrow a legitimate government. Therefore, anyone belonging to a subversive group who is caught carrying explosives and plans for an attack will not be tried on the basis of the antiterrorist statutes.